

Message Text

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USEUCOM PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4050

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ON MAKARIOS' RETURN

1. GOC CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GEORGE PELAGHIAS SPOKE TO US IN SOME DETAIL NOVEMBER 15 REGARDING ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS' PLANS FOR RETURN TO CYPRUS AND HIS APPROACH TO A SOLUTION. PELAGHIAS IS OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY IN MANY RESPECTS BUT HIS GENERALLY INFORMED ON ARCHBISHOP'S INTENTIONS.

2. CONCERNING ANTICIPATED POST-ELECTION ATHENS MEETING OF KARAMANLIS, MAKARIOS AND CLERIDES, PELAGHIAS SAID ARCHBISHOP WILL SEEK FIRM UNDERSTANDINGS ON FUTURE HANDLING OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATION AND GREEK OBJECTIVES. HE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS RETURNING TO CYPRUS AS BOTH PRESIDENT AND ARCHBISHOP. HE EXPECTS TO WORK ON KARAMANLIS AND CLERIDES TO TWIST LATTER'S ARM AS HARD AS IS NECESSARY TO HAVE HIM REMAIN AS NEGOTIATOR. FEDERALISM ON NON-GOEGRAPHIC BASIS, RETURN OF REFUGEES, AND
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COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF CYPRUS TO BE THE NEGOTIATING

OBJECTIVES. MEANS TO ACHIEVE THESE WOULD BE CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS ADDRESSED TO "LOCAL ISSUES" SUCH AS POWERS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, SUPPLEMENTED BY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE COMPRISING REPRESENTATIVES OF GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS, GREECE AND TURKEY, ONE PRINCIPAL NON-ALIGNED NATION (PELAGHIAS MENTIONED EGYPT OR YUGOSLAVIA) AND FIVE PERMANENT SC MEMBERS. PELAGHIAS SAID MAKARIOS AWARE OF US OPPOSITION TO A WIDER FORUM BUT IT HAD "SOME BENEFIT FOR EVERYONE" AND OFFERED BEST PROSPECT OF BRINGING FULL MEASURE OF WORLD OPINION TO BEAR.

3. PELAGHIAS STATED THAT AFTER RETURN TO CYPRUS IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER MAKARIOS WOULD DISSOLVE PRESENT CABINET AND BRING INTO BEING AN ACROSS-THE SPECTRUM, "NATIONAL UNITY" GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT CLERIDES IN A NEGOTIATION FOCUSED ON FOREGOING OBJECTIVES. SINCE OBJECTIVES WOULD BE CLEAR TURKEY COULD NOT COMPLAIN THAT IT NEGOTIATING THROUGH A POST BOX TO MAKARIOS.

4. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, PELAGHIAS SAID ARCHBISHOP WOULD REMAIN INDEFINITELY AS PRESIDENT IF IN NEGOTIATION IT BECAME APPARENT THAT TURKEY UNWILLING TO CO-OPERATE IN ACHIEVING STATED OBJECTIVES AND CYPRIOTS WERE FORCED DIG IN FOR A LONG STRUGGLE. ALTERNATIVELY, IF TURKEY PROVED COOPERATIVE AND A JUST SOLUTION SEEMED IMMINENT, ARCHBISHOP WOULD CONSIDER RESIGNING AS PRESIDENT AND TURNING GOC OVER TO POLITICIANS CHOSEN THROUGH AN ELECTION.

5. COMMENT: FROM OUR OBSERVATIONS, UTTER LACK OF REALISM REFLECTED IN PELAGHIAS' PORTRAYAL OF ARCHBISHOP SEEMS PARADOXICALLY WAXING, NOT WANING, AMONG MANY OF OUR GREEK CYPRIOT CONTACTS. INCREASINGLY, WE ARE TOLD THAT SINCE TURKEY WILL PROVE UNWILLING MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS, GREEKS ON MAINLAND AND IN CYPRUS MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES TO STAND FAST FOR HOWEVER MANY YEARS IT TAKES GREECE TO REBUILD ITS FORCES IN PREPARATION FOR A MAJOR WAR WITH TURKEY.
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